

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 081691

71

ORIGIN CU-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-06 ISO-00 USIA-12 /023 R

DRAFTED BY CU/EE:MRBRANDT:MM

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SOFIA

UNCLAS STATE 081691

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: OEXC, BU

SUBJECT: EXCHANGES: VARNA BALLET COMPETITION

REF: SOFIA 553

1. PASSED SUBSTANCE REFTEL TO MITCHELL. APPEARS TO BE MISUNDERSTANDING BETWEEN HIM AND BULGARIANS OVER TERMS MENTIONED PARA 4 REFTEL. MITCHELL NOT RPT NOT PREPARED PAY TRANS-ATLANTIC PORTION OF TRIP, SINCE HE HAD NOT RPT NOT INTENDED TRAVEL TO EUROPE UNTIL AUGUST AND WILL IN ANY CASE HAVE TO RETURN TO US IMMEDIATELY AFTER FESTIVAL TO PREPARE HIS COMPANY FOR EUROPEAN TOUR WHICH BEGINS MID-AUGUST. UNLESS BULGARIANS OR SOME OTHER SOURCE WILLING PAY HIS INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL, HE MUST DECLINE INVITATION PARTICIPATE IN FESTIVAL, AND HAS SO INFORMED VARNA ORGANIZERS.

2. SINCE MOST UNLIKELY BULGARIAN SIDE WILL PAY HIS TRANS-ATLANTIC TRAVEL, DEPARTMENT WILLING CONSIDER TRAVEL GRANT FOR MITCHELL IF POST CONSIDERS THIS JUSTIFIABLE EXPENDITURE PROGRAM FUNDS. COST WOULD BE ABOUT DOLS 1,000 FOR FULL ROUND TRIP NEW YORK-SOFIA; ABOUT DOLS 600 FOR TRANS-ATLANTIC PORTION ONLY. PLEASE ADVISE SOONEST. KISSINGER

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